

Course Syllabus for History 1301 (11/SP – Four Week Session)
“History teaches everything, even the future.” –Alphonse de Lamartine

Instructor: Robert Glen Findley
Office: Deaderick Hall 201
Office Hours: 09:00AM-11:00AM MW
09:00AM-09:30AM TTH
or by appointment

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Course objective: Study of the past tells us where we are, where we came from and, to a large extent, where we are going. The survey course(s) in United States history is/are designed to provide the student with the basic knowledge and understanding of our present institutions through the study of their past development. These courses should also provide the student with a better understanding of such germane disciplines as political science, sociology, philosophy, literature, and economics in addition to preparing the student for careers in teaching, government service, international relations and the law.

Course outcomes: Upon completion of this course, the student should understand

- 1) the causes and impact of the American Revolution
- 2) the development of constitutional government and its failure to address slavery
- 3) the causes and impact of the American Civil War
- 4) the impact of the post-Civil War period

Textbook: Brinkley, Alan, *The Unfinished Nation*, 6th ed.

Course outline:

Unit One: Pre-Revolution (chs. 2-4)
Unit Two: Creating a Republic (chs. 5-8)
Unit Three: Jackson’s America and Prelude to War (chs. 9-12)
Unit Four: The War Between the States (chs. 13-15)

Assignments, quizzes, and examinations: During the course of this session, there will be one assignments, one discussion post, fourteen chapter quizzes, and four unit examinations. The unit examinations will open on the following dates (Saturdays): **22 January, 29 January, 05 February, and 12 February**. The assignments and weekly quizzes will take place in between those dates.

Examination make-up policy: Remember that making up a missed examination is a privilege and **NOT** a right! If you have to miss an exam, contact me for further instructions. I reserve the right to have make-ups administered in a proctored situation, such as the OC Testing Center, Student Success Center, or the LRC. Also, keep in mind that there will be **NO make-ups for the chapter quizzes and/or other assignments!!**

Grading policy: All examinations are equally weighted. The major exams are worth 100 points each, the quizzes are worth 20 points each, and the opening biography & posts are also worth 20 points. Final semester grades will be based on the following scale: **90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, and below 60 = F**. To arrive at your semester average, divide the total number of points scored by the total number of possible points (e.g. – 350 total points scored divided by 500 possible points = .70 or 70 which would translate into a C for the semester grade).

Academic dishonesty: Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Suspected cheating or plagiarism may result in a reexamination in a controlled environment, a failing grade, or dismissal from the course. As per OC Board Policy the option is with the instructor: *In cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to impose appropriate scholastic penalties.*

Also, keep in mind that once a grade is assigned, it is **final!!!** The need to retain eligibility, please your parents, get into law school, med school, grad school, etc., may be important reasons to change a grade, but they are not valid. A final semester grade is just that – final.

Academic assistance: Help with Blackboard orientation, setting up student e-mail, preparing for exams, writing essays, etc., is available at the Student Success Center. Call 335-6878 or visit their website: <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/>

Drop/withdrawal policy: The last day to drop/withdraw with a “W” for this session is (contact the Registrar for that information @ 432-335-6404) . Dropping and/or withdrawing from the course is your responsibility. Drops/withdrawals after this date are granted only in the most warranted instances and are at my discretion.

Special needs: Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Issues with special needs will be referred to the Office of Disability Services.

Miscellaneous reminders:

- 1) **All e-mail communication is to be through OC student e-mail.** While I won't ignore an e-mail from a personal account, all communication originating from me regarding the course will go to your student e-mail account. This is college policy.
- 2) If you run into a problem (taking a quiz, exam, etc.), please notify me right away so that I can correct it asap. Don't hit the back button on your browser while taking the exam as you will (most likely) get kicked off. I will reset the exam for you, but you should know that the test generator will generate a different exam (the same material, but with different questions) each time.
- 3) If resetting exams/quizzes for you becomes chronic (more than twice), I do reserve the right to have you take a paper exam in a proctored situation. Please be careful while taking the exam(s) and make sure that your system requirements meet those required by Blackboard. If you continue to have problems submitting assignments/exams, you might consider downloading the Google Chrome browser. For some reason, Blackboard seems to “play nicer” with Google Chrome rather than with Internet Explorer. Mozilla/Firefox seems to work well, too. Just FYI.
- 4) If you see a **notepad** where your score should be once you've completed your exam, that means that your exam (for whatever reason) wasn't submitted. Contact me asap and I will reset it for you. If you see an **exclamation point** where your grade should be, that means that you've gone over the designated time limit (thirty minutes for the quizzes and 1.5 – 2.0 hours for the unit exams). **Anything beyond ten percent of the assigned time limits (that would be more than three minutes over for the quizzes and nine to twelve minutes for the unit exams) will result in a two point per minute deduction.**
- 5) Since you don't have to attend lecture and all of the quizzes/exams are “open-book” with more than ample time to complete them (if you are prepared), there is **no** compelling reason to offer “extra-credit” in this course.
- 6) Since there is no lecture component to this course, success is going to largely depend on your reading and comprehension skills. Read and prepare thoroughly. Consider outlining each chapter as you read it. Examine the headings, bold-faced words, and chapter summaries carefully.

- 7) Again, remember that the Student Success Center (inside the LRC) provides computers, tutors, and a good environment to test in. If you run into a (technical) problem, there's someone to help right away. Call 432-335-6878 for additional information.
- 8) Again, if you need to contact me, use gfindley@odessa.edu (preferred), 335-6591 (office) or, if it is truly urgent and you need to get in touch right away, call me at home (432-362-7713). If I don't answer, leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.